

Richardson II; and Special Agent Keith Palli of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2014 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who served on the team investigating a case of arson at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Prince William County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,536,123,426,853.10. We've added \$6,909,246,377,940.02 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRATULATING WESLEYAN, WEST STOKES AND WESTCHESTER ON THEIR CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, in sports, winning a championship is an incredible accomplishment. I am proud to announce that Wesleyan Christian Academy, West Stokes High, and Westchester Country Day all recently won state titles. All of these schools are either in the Sixth District of North Carolina or our constituents attend these fine institutions.

The softball team at Wesleyan Christian Academy recently won the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association 3A softball championship for the first time in the school's history. The Lady Trojans credit their success to the strong bond the team formed after a fellow teammate experienced a critical medical condition. Players Taylor Bisbee and Taylor Travis received the American Red Cross Certificate of Merit Award for their courageous acts towards their teammate in need.

The West Stokes girls' soccer team defeated Washington 2-0 to bring home the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 2A state title. The Lady Wildcats believe it was their refuse-to-lose attitude that helped them capture the soccer program's first state title: Team captains Taylor Hooper and Tori Van Meter received individual honors. Hooper was named the championship's Most Valuable Player, while Van Meter received the NCHSAA Sportsmanship Award.

Westchester Country Day recently won the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association 2A state championships for baseball and golf. This is the third straight year the

baseball team has brought home a state title and is the third in four years for the golf team.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Wesleyan Christian Academy, West Stokes High, and Westchester Country Day for winning state championships.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WAYZATA TROJANS BOYS TENNIS TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wayzata Boys Tennis Team on their outstanding accomplishment of winning their second consecutive Minnesota State Championship.

Even though they lost 6 starters from last year's team, under the direction of Head Coach Jeff Prondzinski the team found a way to regain their winning form.

The team spent the better part of the season mixing and matching players, hoping to find the perfect combination. The long winter kept the team inside and postponed many matches throughout the season. But regardless of the unfortunate circumstances, the Trojans remained dedicated and focused, putting forth extra effort in their free time to improve.

The road to the championship was intense, as Wayzata battled tough competitors to qualify. Among the standout Trojan athletes is Sophomore Nick Beaty, who got the team off to a great start by winning the singles championship. The Trojan momentum continued with victories from Sam Theisen at No. 3 Singles and four additional wins to seal the championship.

Mr. Speaker, This year's well-deserved title carries a little more weight in the player's eyes due to the rocky road that was successfully navigated to get there. It is a testament to the team's perseverance and enthusiasm to overcome many obstacles and accomplish their goal of being the best boys tennis team in the State of Minnesota.

Congratulations again to the Trojan Boys Tennis team, Coach Prondzinski, and all of the parents, teachers and fans who have supported these athletes along the way.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Awards recognize remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety agencies and their commitment to the community. Our public

safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 25 individuals, one investigative team, and one Operational Task Force in a variety of categories including, the Silver or Bronze Valor Award, the Merit Valor Award, and the Investigative Merit Award.

Two members of Virginia State Police are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I submit the names of the following award recipients:

2014 Silver Valor Award: Trooper Charles A. Lanfranchi and Trooper Brandon West.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2014 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Virginia State Police. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Prince William County and the Commonwealth of Virginia, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING ROBERT F. ECKLOND

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor Mr. Robert F. Ecklund, a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War. Mr. Ecklund originally enlisted in the United States Navy as a Seaman Apprentice, completing Boot Camp in Sampson, New York and advanced technical training at the Construction Training Center in Davisville, Rhode Island. He served in the Pacific Theater during World War II with the 20th Special Naval Construction Battalion Seabees. Mr. Ecklund was present at Red Hill Seabee Camp in Hawaii during V-J Day on September 2, 1945. He was honorably discharged in September 1946, having attained the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class.

Following his discharge, Mr. Ecklund showed his continued dedication to the U.S. Armed Forces by joining the United States Naval Reserve. When he was called to serve during the Korean War, Mr. Ecklund honored his country by returning to active duty, serving in Korea from April 1950 to July 1953.

This year on Memorial Day, Robert Ecklund was celebrated by the Honor Flight Network, a non-profit organization that seeks to honor America's veterans for the sacrifices they made for our country. As part of this recognition, Mr. Ecklund was flown from Florida to Washington, DC, affording him the opportunity to visit and reflect at the National World War II Memorial.

I am proud to recognize and honor Mr. Ecklund and remember those who have given so much to serve our country. Their dedication, courage, and sacrifice allowed America to remain safe and free. I ask my colleagues will join me in commending Robert Ecklund for his long-standing service to the United States.